

CLAIMS:

What is claimed:

1. A method for playing a casino game of chance with random entry from an underlying slot machine to a bonus game, the method for playing the casino game comprising:

displaying in a display a plurality of paths for play of the bonus game, each of the plurality of paths having a plurality of positions, at least one of the plurality of positions having an associated outcome;

a player selecting one of the plurality of displayed paths in the play of the bonus game;

randomly providing a number of moves in the bonus game;

moving, in response to the provided random number of moves, along the selected one path a corresponding number of positions corresponding to the provided number of moves to land on a position in the display;

awarding the player in the bonus game based upon any outcome associated with the position landed on;

repeating the aforesaid steps of randomly providing and moving in response to landing on the position until the bonus game ends;

providing a fixed player expected value in the bonus game for each of the plurality of paths.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein each of the plurality of paths have the same number of positions.

3. The method of claim 1 wherein each of the plurality of paths have a different number of positions.

4. The method of claim 1 wherein at least one of the plurality of paths has a different number of positions from the remaining plurality of paths.

5. The method of claim 1 wherein at least one of the plurality of positions for at least one of the plurality of paths is a stop position and wherein moving along the selected path further comprises:

always stopping at a stop position on the selected path.

6. The method of claim 1 wherein at least one of the plurality of positions for at least one of the plurality of paths is a move position.

7. The method of claim 6 wherein the move position has a given number of positions to move back along the selected path.

8. The method of claim 6 wherein the move position has a given number of positions to move forward along the selected path.

9. The method of claim 6 wherein the move position moves to a position on another path and play of the bonus game continues on the other path.

10. The method of claim 1 wherein the associated outcome is an award value.

11. The method of claim 1 wherein the step of randomly providing occurs from any one of the following:

spinning a mechanical spinner, rotating a mechanical wheel, rolling at least one mechanical die, flipping a mechanical coin, or using a random number generator.

12. The method of claim 1 wherein the step of randomly providing provides a number equal to zero moves.

13. The method of claim 1 wherein at least one of the plurality of positions for at least one of the plurality of paths is a game play position, so that when the game play position is landed on a game is played.

14. The method of claim 1 further comprising:
  - providing a decision node at a plurality of intersecting paths in the plurality of paths in the play of the bonus game of the casino game of chance;
  - the player selecting one of the plurality of intersecting paths when moving to the decision node, the play of the bonus game continuing on the selected intersecting path.
15. The method of claim 1 wherein awarding the player further comprises:
  - selecting one of the following awards: money, credits, privileges, items, gifts or another game.
16. The method of claim 1 wherein the fixed player expected value is the same for each of the plurality of paths.
17. The method of claim 1 wherein the fixed player expected value for each of the plurality of paths falls within a predetermined percentage.
18. The method of claim 1 wherein the house advantage for the casino game is within a predetermined range, the predetermined range at least determined by the fixed player expected values of each of the plurality of paths, and the random entry to the bonus game from the underlying slot machine.
19. The method of claim 1 wherein the bonus game ends when the step of moving encounters an end position on the selected path.
20. The method of claim 1 wherein the associated outcome is an award that is a negative amount so as to represent a loss.
21. The method of claim 1 wherein randomly providing the number further comprises:
  - when the number is a certain chance outcome, the player buying the right to choose the position to land on in the selected path, and

wherein the step of moving further comprises:  
moving to the chosen position in response to the player buying.

22. The method of claim 1 further comprising:  
when a position landed on is a prescribed position, the player buying the opportunity to double all remaining associated outcomes in the selected path.
23. A method for playing a casino game of chance the method for playing the casino game comprising:  
displaying in a display a plurality of paths for play of the casino game, each of the plurality of paths having a plurality of positions, at least one of the plurality of positions having an associated outcome;  
a player selecting one of the plurality of displayed paths in the play of the casino game;  
randomly providing a number of moves in the casino game;  
moving, in response to the provided random number, along the selected one path a corresponding number of positions to land on a position in the display;  
awarding the player in the casino game based upon any outcome associated with the position landed on;  
repeating the aforesaid steps of randomly providing and moving until the bonus game ends;  
providing a fixed player expected value in the casino game for each of the plurality of paths.

24. A method for playing a casino game of chance with random entry from an underlying slot machine to a bonus game, the method for playing the casino game comprising:  
displaying in a display to a player at least one path for play of the bonus game, the at least one path having a plurality of positions;  
randomly providing a number of moves in the bonus game for the at least one path;

moving, in response to the provided random number, along the at least one path a corresponding number of positions to land on a position;

providing a decision node in the at least one path;

displaying in the display a plurality of continuing paths at the decision node;

the player selecting one of the plurality of continuing paths, each of the plurality of continuing paths having a plurality of continuing positions;

randomly providing a number of moves for the selected continuing path;

moving, in response to the provided random number for the selected continuing path, along the selected continuing path a corresponding number to land on a position;

awarding the player in the bonus game based upon any outcome associated with positions landed on in the at least one path and in the selected continuing path;

providing a fixed player expected value in the bonus game for each of the plurality of paths.